

A haiku. Something so simple and tied to nature was the essence of my lesson. It was actually created on a whim, as are most of my computer lab lessons. We are currently discussing poetry in my Reader's Workshop and Writer's Workshop times. The students had a prior knowledge of a haiku and of MS PowerPoint. We have not, however, used photos on such a large scale before.

The amount of planning for technology-integrated lessons should be minimal. In 2nd grade, the students are getting exposed to the software (and sometimes the hardware) that we use on a day-to-day basis. The majority of my planning has to do with the mental availability of the content for the students. Are they ready to use this software? Are they ready to use this software in this way? Is the software an appropriate expression of the content? These are the thoughts that enter my head as I am walking to pick up the kiddos from their specialist.

When I ask the students to implement a new strategy of task on the computer, I try to make sure it is with a content that they are familiar with. In this lesson, we are writing haikus. The students have been talking about poetry for the past few days in couple of different classes and I felt they had enough prior knowledge and understanding to be able to create a piece on their own.

In the lesson I refresh their memories about how/where to get new clipart. I teach them that it is okay to make the picture as big as the page to use as a background. We are reminded about how to add a text box and begin writing. The one piece that we hadn't revisited in a while was the part about making the text different colors and sizes. However, with most of their independent projects, they have been practicing on their own.

I feel that the students are capable of achieving many things on a computer if they are asked to do so. The students in my class seem extremely eager to learn new tasks and tools on the computer. Following the taping of this lesson, I had a student show me a shortcut he'd found for adding clipart. This shows me that they understand that exploring the computer is acceptable and is a strategy for learning new things. I must admit that I am very proud of these learners.

My only point of frustration came when I had a few students who easily found a picture from nature; however, they chose to go on and write a story about their picture. I only needed to remind them of their task and they corrected their errors.

I will print these pages and create a classroom book of haikus for the students to browse. They are always excited to create and share self-created work. Many of them know and understand that *much* of the student work created in school isn't done on the computer so it makes them much more proud.